

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 6, 2001 has been carefully considered and this application has been amended in a manner which it is believed places it in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the Oath/Declaration is defective for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.67(a). Specifically, changes were made to the address of inventor Babcock without initialing, and the date of inventor Cai's signature was not provided. A supplemental Oath/Declaration is provided with the required address, signature and date for the inventors Babcock and Cai.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koch et al. (WO 93/05520). Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koch et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

The Examiner states that Koch et al. discloses an "insulation comprising between 3% to 20% by dry weight of kaolin (re claims 2-4 and 6-8)." Koch et al. does not disclose such a limitation. Koch et al. lists kaolin as one of several refractory dielectrics that may be used in combination with spinel to produce a ceramic insulator (page 17, lines 12-29). Nowhere in the specification or claims is a specific range for the amount of kaolin disclosed.

The other two references cited by the Examiner, U.S. Patent No. 4,200,077 to Kauhle et al. and UK Patent No. 2 178 606A to Martin did not form the basis of the Examiner's rejections and do not cure the deficiencies of Koch et al.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 10, respectively. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 9 now recite the

specific range for the optimal amount of kaolin to be used in a mineral based insulation, ie. between 3% and 20% by dry weight.

Additionally, new claims 17-20 have been added which recite the function of kaolin in the insulation, ie. that it prevents moisture from infiltrating the insulation and increases the resistivity of the insulation at high temperatures. These functional limitations further define the claims over the prior art. The Koch et al. reference, while disclosing that kaolin may be used with spinel insulation, does not disclose the advantages of adding kaolin. Koch et al. merely discloses that adding kaolin does not "reduce the desirable electrical properties of spinel [insulation]."

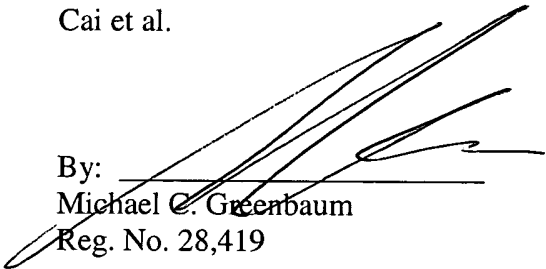
Because none of the references disclose the range of kaolin as recited in claims 1, 9, 17 and 18, and because none of the references disclose the functional purpose of kaolin as recited in claims 17-20, all pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. As all grounds of rejection have been addressed and overcome, entry of this Amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance of claims 1, 3-9 and 11-20 are respectfully solicited.

In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited. Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (114685-00105).

In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cai et al.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

1. (Amended) In a cable including an outer metallic sheath, at least one metallic conductor therein, and mineral insulation disposed between the outer sheath and the metallic conductor; the improvement wherein the mineral insulation comprises between 3% and 20% by dry weight of kaolin.

9. (Amended) A process of making a cable, comprising:
providing an outer metallic sheath;
disposing at least one metallic conductor in the metallic sheath;
filling the metallic sheath with mineral insulation including between 3% and 20% by dry weight of kaolin; and
drawing down the metallic sheath.